

Serial No.: 10/723,031  
Amdt. dated 05 December 2006  
Reply to Office Action of 05 July 2006

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***Amendments to the Specification:***

In the Specification, please replace paragraph [0044] with the following amended paragraph:

[0044] Generally, the shank is composed of stainless steel, high carbon steel, and/or autoclaveable high strength plastic (for implants). The laser connects through an interchangeable fitting to a conventional fiber optic bundle in or at the shank. The fiber optic bundle, when located in the shank, allows optical energy to exit [[In]] in contiguity with the head through a heat and scratch resistant quartz window, where, upon exit, it ~~bathes~~ bathes the surgical site, e.g., the periodontal pocket and tissues, with diode laser energy.